



PRODUCTS AND SERVICES BULLETIN

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)

COASTAL SERVICES CENTER

SPRING 2006

This quarterly publication supplies up-to-date information about the tools and services developed by the NOAA Coastal Services Center for the nation's coastal resource managers. For more information, please contact Elliot Shapiro at Elliot.Shapiro@noaa.gov.

New Products and Initiatives

New maps to aid in Mississippi recovery effort. A new series of topographic maps is helping property owners in Mississippi Gulf Coast counties rebuild to safer elevations. The maps were created through a partnership between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and NOAA. To view the maps, visit www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/recoverydata/index.shtm. For more information, contact Doug.Marcy@noaa.gov.

Public Trust Doctrine course. This on-line module presents a basic overview of the Public Trust Doctrine, its legal origins and geographic scope, the responsibilities of the states, and much more. The information can help coastal managers understand the many problems states encounter in finding a balance between public and private uses for navigable waters and their shores. View the course at www.csc.noaa.gov/ptd/.

Web content design and evaluation course. This course is designed for Web content creators to develop more relevant and effective Web sites for their stakeholders and the public. The on-line module provides a foundation of knowledge for understanding the needs of Web users and tailoring Web content to meet those needs, as well as examining possible evaluation methods: www.csc.noaa.gov/wcde/.

Three data acquisition projects in the Gulf Coast. The Center partnered with private industry to acquire high-resolution topographic elevation data for portions of the Gulf Coast region. The data will assist in critical decision making in areas such as land use planning, storm surge, emergency response, and water quality. Satellite-based coastal land cover was also acquired for the region, with post-Katrina products planned for fiscal year 2006. The completed data sets are available to the public at www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/. For more information, contact Steve.Raber@noaa.gov.

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Updated Products and Initiatives

New tool for 2006 hurricane season. A recently expanded version of the Inland Flood Planning and Response Tool allows emergency managers in New England to quickly compare flood inundation maps with forecasts of rainfall and river levels. Developed by FEMA and NOAA's National Weather Service and Coastal Services Center, the tool is part of HURREVAC, a national hurricane evacuation computer program. For more information, log on to www.hurrevac.com or contact Doug.Marcy@noaa.gov.

On-line needs assessment learning module. This module illustrates the terminology, tools, and methods of needs assessments. The module answers questions of how to develop assessment instruments such as surveys and questionnaires, where needs assessments fit in the project development process, and what make up the basic steps: www.csc.noaa.gov/needs/.

Efforts to increase safe navigation in the Pacific. New nautical charts and updated *Coast Pilot* information now exist for the U.S. Territory of Guam in the western Pacific. The new information—including updated channel descriptions, anchorages, currents, tides, and bridge clearances—makes safer navigation possible for an island dependent on commercial and recreational shipping. This work is a combined effort of the NOAA Pacific Services Center and Office of Coast Survey to complete upgrades to NOAA nautical charting products for U.S. flag Pacific islands. Ninety percent of the island data have now been updated. Contact Gerry.Wheaton@noaa.gov or Darcee.Killpack@noaa.gov for more information.

Future Products and Initiatives

TsunamiResilient Communities Program. To spearhead development of a TsunamiResilient Communities Program, representatives from the coastal management community recently conducted a scoping trip to Colombo, Sri Lanka, and Male, Maldives. This program will build on benchmarks for local preparedness and response developed for the U.S. and adapt them for urban, rural, and tourism communities in the Indian Ocean region. The NOAA Pacific Services Center and its partners will support work with Indian Ocean countries to enhance community efforts toward the development of this initiative. The effort is part of the larger U.S. government's Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System Program led by the U.S. Agency for International Development. For more information, contact Russell.Jackson@noaa.gov.

Guam Coastal Atlas. A new coastal atlas of Guam now provides benthic habitat data and other coastal information to Guam's coastal resource managers and the public. The NOAA Pacific Services Center, through the Pacific Islands Assistantship Program,

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provided support to the University of Guam Marine Laboratory to develop the atlas. A limited number of atlases are in print and an interactive CD-ROM and Web site will be available in early 2006. For more information, contact Darcee.Killpack@noaa.gov.

Tracking waterborne substances and organisms. Chesapeake Bay is deliberating the introduction of a non-native oyster species as a means of improving oyster production in the region. The Chesapeake Bay Oyster Larvae Tracker (CBOLT) is a Web-based particle-tracking tool developed to determine how the oyster larvae, once released, might move through the bay. The tool is designed to be general enough to work in other locales for other types of waterborne substances. For additional information, contact Dave.Eslinger@noaa.gov.

Center News

Performance measures. The Center is working with a contracting firm, Abt Associates, to develop performance measures for numerous Center efforts. This work, which is designed to increase the accountability and dedication to excellence within the organization, should be completed by summer. For details, contact Jan.Kucklick@noaa.gov.

NOAA assists with Louisiana Recovery Day. The Center is working with FEMA and other agencies to coordinate long-term community recovery planning in Louisiana. This effort has included a series of workshops with governmental leaders in the most impacted parishes, the largest of which brought in 4,000 participants. Louisiana Recovery Planning Day involved citizens in planning for their own long-term recovery and gave people an update on recovery planning efforts in their home parishes. For more information, contact Heidi.Recksiek@noaa.gov.

Gulf Coast Geospatial Center seeks training from the Center. Trainers from the Gulf Coast Geospatial Center (GCGC) at the University of Southern Mississippi recently attended Hazard Mitigation Planning training at the NOAA Coastal Services Center. The training—particularly important following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita—focused on how to conduct a community-level risk and vulnerability assessment and how to teach the training to local decision makers. For more information, contact Tashya.Allen@noaa.gov.

Coastal Storms Program wins Bronze Medal award. Members of the Center's Coastal Storms Program team were honored with the 2005 Bronze Medal award for excellence for their vision and leadership in establishing and implementing a cross-NOAA program to address the impacts of storms on coastal communities. The program's pilot effort took place in northeastern Florida in 2004 and helped

the region's communities plan for, respond to, and recover from the devastating impacts of storms. To view all the winners, visit www.wfm.noaa.gov/awards/bronze/05bronzewinners.pdf.

Training Schedule

Introduction to ArcGIS

- June 13–16 Two back-to-back courses – Mobile, Alabama

Introduction to and Coastal Applications of ArcGIS

- April 11–14 Monterey, California
- April 24–28 NOAA Coastal Services Center
- May 16–19 Seattle, Washington

Introduction to ArcGIS and Remote Sensing for Spatial Analysts

- April 3–6 Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO)
Network Training Academy – NOAA Coastal Services Center

Managing Visitor Use in Coastal and Marine Protected Areas

- April 4–5 Hudson River Valley Greenway
- May 9–10 North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)
- May 24–25 Apalachicola NERR
- May 31–June 1 Weeks Bay NERR

Negotiating for Coastal Resources

- May 18–19 California

Project Design and Evaluation

- April 25–26 Schuylkill River, Pennsylvania
- June 6–7 Indianapolis, Indiana

Public Issues and Conflict Management

- April 18–20 Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- May 15–17 California
- June 10–12 Association of State Floodplain Managers –
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Training for your organization can take place at the Center in Charleston, South Carolina, or be brought to your facility. For more information, visit www.csc.noaa.gov/training/.



NOAA Coastal Services Center
LINKING PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY